

me and the people of Central New York to have the number one library in the Nation. I congratulate Sodus Librarian Carol Garland and her staff for all the hard work that has attributed to Sodus Library being considered the top in the Nation.

CONGRATULATING JACK
McCROSKEY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jack McCroskey for his exemplary public service to Colorado. Jack, with his foresight and strong leadership, has helped make the metropolitan Denver light-rail transit system a reality. His service in reviving public transportation is deserving of special recognition.

Mr. McCroskey, former Chairman of the Regional Transportation District, has long envisioned a regional transit system throughout the Denver metropolitan area. Today there are six lines in operation and more are expected to be built in the coming years. Initially Mr. McCroskey believed that the system could start small and move forward gradually as the public began to embrace it. In 2004 the public voted to expand the system with a region-wide sales tax increase.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. McCroskey for his great contributions to Colorado. We recognize his leadership and vision in bringing public transportation to the Denver metropolitan area. I am proud to offer a long awaited recognition to Mr. McCroskey for his great accomplishments.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO
TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER AS-
SESSMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 214, the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act of 2005.

The U.S.-Mexico border region presents us with one of our Nation's most challenging sets of policy priorities. We read headlines every day about the issues of migration, national security, illegal drug trafficking, and trade and commerce, all of which are centered on our southern border. However, the nation often forgets about other issues by which we are affected on the border that are complicated by the binational nature of the communities in which we live.

S. 214 will help border communities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California as they approach an issue that will determine the viability of their communities to prosper indefinitely into the future: water. On the border, the question of water is not only one of negotiating resource allocation between countries, but also one of geography and scarcity. As we

enter a century in which, according to many experts, wars between nations will be fought over water, not oil, S. 214 will offer an essential assessment tool to policymakers making strategic decisions about resource allocation.

Currently, although the U.S. and Mexico share information about surface water and other resources, no bilateral mechanism exists for cooperation and the sharing of information with regards to ground water. This lack of communication makes it difficult to ascertain the limitations and capabilities of those groundwater resources shared between the U.S. and Mexico.

The bill would provide for that mechanism by establishing a United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program to evaluate and model groundwater resources along the border. The program will develop an integrated approach to assess transboundary groundwater resources, prioritizing the aquifers for further analysis, and creating a geographic information system database for each priority aquifer. The bill would expand existing agreements between the U.S. Geological Survey, border states, the research institutes, and U.S. and Mexican authorities to conduct joint scientific investigations and produce scientific reports that will assist technicians and authorities in managing our most precious resource.

Located in the Chihuahu Desert, the vitality of my district of El Paso, Texas depends on the prudent management of our water resources. S. 214 will help us provide sustainable water resources for generations of Americans to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 214.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORA-
TION SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Mr. RADANOVICH's legislation to authorize implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

Enacting this legislation will allow the San Joaquin River—the second-longest river in California—to once again have the water it needs to support a viable salmon fishery. If enacted, the San Joaquin River will be a living river decades after the Bureau of Reclamation built Friant Dam.

Putting water back into a dry river in California is a very complicated and controversial task. A number of "third parties" have now come forward to express concerns that their own particular interests may in some way be detrimentally affected by this settlement and its proposed legislation, and ask that this legislation be restructured to eliminate or minimize their concerns. It is entirely appropriate that this legislation addresses those concerns. As we consider the implications of enacting this restoration legislation for the San Joaquin River and the need to protect a variety of interests, I am mindful of and remain committed to progress in implementing and funding the December 19, 2000, Trinity River restoration record of decision and the Hoopa Valley

Tribe's comanagement of the decision's important goal of restoring the fishery resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement legislation is tremendously important for all of California. The settling parties, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, Congressman RADANOVICH, and many other concerned and affected parties have worked long and hard to bring this settlement to Congress all making concessions, and deserve our recognition and appreciation. I will continue to work with my colleagues and do whatever I can to help ensure the enabling legislation is enacted.

H.R. 4954, THE SAFE PORT ACT UN-
LAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING
AND ENFORCEMENT ACT PROVI-
SIONS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the recent enactment of the Unlawful Internet Gambling and Enforcement Act of 2006. Internet gambling legislation has been a priority for this Congress the last several years. In 2003, I sponsored H.R. 2143, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act and have cosponsored Mr. LEACH's Internet gambling bills in each of the last three Congresses. The Conference Report for H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act, which was enacted into law, reflects Mr. LEACH's Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, H.R. 4411.

Five years ago, there were less than 50 Internet gambling sites. Today, there are close to 2,000 sites that will generate upwards of \$5.9 billion this year alone. The legislation that was enacted into law addresses the problem of illegal internet gambling through an enforcement mechanism. The new law does not change the legality of any gambling activity in the United States. The sole purpose of this law is to enforce against activities that are already illegal under the Wire Act and other Federal and State statutes. It enforces illegal gambling by preventing the use of any bank instrument—such as a credit card, check or electronic fund transfer—for Internet gambling.

Though online gambling has been illegal in this country from its inception—under state law, not just federal law—we have had serious problems enforcing these laws. The advantage and the disadvantage of the Internet is that it has no borders. Nothing can stop bets and wagers from being placed using a Web site hosted in another jurisdiction. When that bet or wager causes a violation of our laws, we had no effective means of enforcement until now.

Congress reviewed a number of possibilities to better enforce the law on the books. One enforcement option was to prosecute the gambler. However, enforcement against individual gamblers is a State prerogative under our federalist system. The Federal government has never claimed the authority to prosecute gamblers. And though gambling online is a misdemeanor in most States, it would be impossible for States to effectively enforce this way. The State would have to monitor people's